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FOREST INSECTS AND DISEASES IN FUNDY NATIONAL PARK IN 1991

Personnel of the Forest Insect and Disease Survey regularly survey national parks for forest insect and disease conditions. Some of the more noteworthy conditions encountered in Fundy National Park in 1991 are discussed briefly below.

YELLOWHEADED SPRUCE SAWFLY, a pest of spruce, prefers to defoliate young, open-grown trees, thus making plantations and ornamental trees most susceptible to feeding injury. Moderate defoliation was found at the junction of Route 114 and Hastings Auto Trail in an old-field red spruce stand.

BIRCH LEAFMINERS feed between leaf layers, forming a blotch mine which turns reddish brown as the season progresses. This gives heavily infested trees a scorched appearance. Leaf browning ranged from light to moderate on white and wire birch throughout the Park.

FROST DAMAGE on hardwoods, especially beech, and to a lesser extent conifers, causes damage throughout the Park. Moderate and severe damage was very common wherever beech trees were present.

SIROCOCCUS SHOOT BLIGHT causes reddening and drooping of new needles and shoots of pine and spruce. After repeated attacks on shoots and branches, tree mortality may result. The disease remains active on red pine at the main entrance to the Park and at the corner of Herring Cove and Point Wolfe road.

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BALSAM TWIG APHID, a minute insect, excretes white wool and large quantities of a sticky substance known as "honey dew", while feeding on plant juices. Affected needles assume a whitish-gray or silver appearance. In 1991, light and moderate damage were found on young balsam fir shoots in the Park.

CHERRY BLIGHT is a disease of pin cherry which first appears in late spring and early summer, with symptoms remaining visible throughout the summer. Clumps of leaves wilt, turn brown and curl, and lesions or cankers on stems produce a gummy substance. The disease was common throughout the Park with light and moderate damage on shoots and leaves of pin cherry.

YELLOW WITCHES' BROOM OF BALSAM FIR is a disease which stimulates lateral shoots to form a conspicuous witches' broom. The disease was common throughout the Park, especially along the road to Point Wolfe.

HEMLOCK LOOPER, contrary to its name, is mainly a defoliator of balsam fir and is capable of causing severe damage when populations are high. It feeds on needles of all age classes, chewing but not consuming all of the needles. This insect caused severe defoliation in many areas of the province this year. In the Park, a few larvae were found but no defoliation was observed.

PORCUPINE DAMAGE was present in the Park and was especially common along the road to Herring Cove, where 20% of balsam fir are dead or dying.

GYPSY MOTH is a major pest of forest and shade trees in southern Ontario, southern Quebec, and the northeastern United States. Gypsy moth is an established pest in southwestern New Brunswick and western Nova Scotia. The large, hairy larvae are distinguished by five pairs of blue and six pairs of red dots along their back. In 1991, Park personnel assisted with the adult trapping program, which resulted in 450 male moths being caught in the 25 traps returned, a significant increase from 1990, when 15 male moths were caught in the same number of traps. The majority of moths caught are believed to have been blown in on storm fronts from infested areas in New England. No other life stages of the gypsy moth were found. All parks are potential entry points because of the high influx of tourists, whose vehicles and trailers are potential carriers of larvae or egg masses. Visitors are requested to report any suspected gypsy moths to Park personnel.

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Forest Insect and Disease Survey
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